

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) Apparatus for ~~securing the~~ securely carrying a variable number of compact discs between nonflexible covers of an expandable-book CD case, comprising:

a ~~book~~ compact disc carrying case having a nonflexible front cover, ~~and a nonflexible back cover and space therebetween~~;

a number of sleeves located between said covers for carrying compact discs, each sleeve having a slot to effectuate removal of the associated compact disc therefrom;

a hinge between said covers, said sleeves being exposed at three sides of said case; and,

a spring-loaded strap having a distal end secured to said back cover and a proximal end releasably securable to said front cover, said strap adapted to overlie ~~the aperture formed by said space between~~ said covers to secure said covers together so as to secure and squeeze the compact discs from movement and prevent damage to said compact discs regardless of the number of compact discs carried between the covers.

2. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein said strap includes an elastic member secured at the proximal end to the distal portion of said strap and at a distal end thereof to said back cover.

3. (Currently amended) The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein said back cover includes a backing member and a covering having a slot therein, and wherein said strap ~~extends~~ has a detent co-acting with said slot, said strap extending through said slot, the co-action of said detent with said slot slidably restraining said strap from removal therefrom.

4. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 3, wherein said strap includes a detent at the distal end thereof, said detent co-acting with said slot to limit the movement of the distal end of said strap.
5. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 4, wherein said detent is T-shaped.
6. (Currently amended) The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein said ~~elastic member~~ spring-loaded strap includes a web.
7. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 6, wherein said web is secured to the distal end of said strap.
8. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 7, wherein said web is secured to the distal end of said strap by double stitching.
9. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein said strap is unextensible such that said strap is extensible only by the spring loading thereof.
10. (Currently amended) A method for ~~securing together~~ securely carrying a variable number of compact discs between front and back ~~the covers of an expandable book~~ a compact disc case, comprising the ~~step~~ steps of:

providing a compact disc case having front and back nonflexible covers hinged together such that three free edges thereof are exposed;

locating a number of compact disc carrying sleeves between the covers; and,

providing a spring-loaded strap having a distal end secured to a back cover of the ~~book~~ case and a proximal end releasably attachable to the front cover of the ~~book~~ case, the spring loading permitting extension of the strap to accommodate expansion of the ~~book~~ case due to increasing numbers of compact discs carried therein, such that the spring loading of the covers together securely sandwiches the sleeves to clamp the compact disc together in their sleeves to prevent damage to the compact discs.

11. (Original) The method of Claim 10, and further including the step of hiding the spring-loading portion of the strap when the strap is extended.

12. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 11, wherein the back cover of the ~~book~~ case is provided with a slot through which the strap extends.

13. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 12, wherein the back cover of the ~~book~~ case covers the spring-loaded portion of the strap.

14. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 13, wherein the spring-loaded portion of the strap is prevented from ~~exiting~~ being pulled out of the slot through which it extends.

15. (Currently amended) A CD holder comprising:

an expandable-~~book~~ case having leaves therein provided with CD receiving pockets, said ~~book~~ case having spaced-apart nonflexible front and back covers; and,

a spring-loaded strap having a distal end secured to said back cover and a proximal end releasably securable to said front cover, said strap adapted to overlie the ~~aperture formed by space between~~ said covers to secure said covers together, said spring-loaded strap causing the secure sandwiching of said leaves together regardless of the number of CDs within the case, thereby to prevent CD damage.

16. (Original) The CD holder of Claim 15, wherein said strap includes an elastic member at said distal end.